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[0031] These tests have been carried out with different grades of barite: a standard grade of API barite, having a weight average particle diameter (D_{50}) of about 20 μm ; a commercial barite (M) made by milling/grinding barite whilst in the dry state, with an average size of 3 μm - 5 μm and colloidal barite according the claimed subject matter (with a D_{50} from 0.5 μm to 1.5 μm), with a dispersant included during the "wet" grinding process. ~~The corresponding particle size distributions are shown FIG. 1.~~ The dispersant is IDSPERSETM XT (Mark of Schlumberger), an anionic acrylic ter-polymer of molecular weight in the range 40,000 to 120,000 with carboxylate and other functional groups. This preferred polymer is advantageously stable at temperature up to 200° C., tolerant to a broad range of contaminant, gives good filtration properties and do not readily desorb off the particle surface.